

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EB-11 SAJ-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /121 W

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R 021843Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6645

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, US, UR, GE, GW, FR, UK

SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION

REF: A) BERLIN 1301; B) BERLIN 232

SUMMARY: AT JULY 31 BONN GROUP MEETING THE FONOFF
REP (BLECH) GAVE ALLIES A PERSONAL AND QUANTITATIVE
VIEW OF EXFILTRATION PROBLEM ALONG BERLIN TRANSIT
ACCESS ROUTES WHICH HAS BECOME SUBJECT OF INCREASING
INTEREST IN BOTH EAST AND WEST GERMAN PRESS AND OFFI-
CIALDOM. END SUMMARY.

1. BLECH SAID HE THOUGHT STATE SECRETARY GRABERT'S
INTERVIEW WITH THE BERLINER MORGENPOST ON THE SUBJECT
OF EXFILTRATION (REF A) HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY DESIRE TO
IMPRESS GDR WITH FRG RESOLVE TO LIVE UP TO ITS END OF
THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT AGREEMENT. BLECH REFERRED TO
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE
STATEMENT JULY 31 THAT NO NEW FRG LEGISLATION WAS CON-
TEMPLATED TO DEAL WITH EXFILTRATIONS, BUT THAT WHERE
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BREACHES OF FRG LAW OCCURRED IN THIS CONNECTION, THE

VIOLATORS WOULD BE PROSECUTED.

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE UK REP (CROMARTIE), BLECH SAID HE COULD NOT EXCLUDE INCREASING GDR ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ARTICLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL (BERLIN 1217) AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV'S MENTION OF SUBJECT IN HIS RECENT TALK WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES (BERLIN 1199). HOWEVER, BLECH COMMENTED THAT THE EXFILTRATION PROBLEM MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE EAST GERMANS TO PUBLICIZE EFFECTIVELY, INASMUCH AS IT CONCERNED THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPES OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS. BLECH SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE GDR HAD TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO GET SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH FRG DURING HIS MAY VISIT TO BONN.

3. BLECH THEN REPORTED STATISTICAL INFORMATION HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GATHER AT THE REQUEST OF THE ALLIES ON THE EXFILTRATION PROBLEM. HE SAID HIS PRIMARY SOURCE HAD BEEN THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, WITH SOME INPUT FROM THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE INNER-GERMAN TRAFFIC COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER TERMS OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT. BLECH REPORTED THAT FROM THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT ON JUNE 3, 1972, UNTIL JUNE 30, 1973, 3,574 REFUGEES HAD FLED FROM THE GDR. OF THESE, 3,021 HAD GONE DIRECTLY OVER TO THE FRG AND 553 HAD COME OUT THROUGH THE BERLIN WALL. WHILE ADMITTING THAT AN ACCURATE COUNT COULDN'T BE DETERMINED BLECH REPORTED THAT 257 HAD SAID THEY HAD USED THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO ESCAPE FROM THE GDR. OF THESE, BLECH SAID 201 HAD ADMITTED

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THEY HAD RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM PROFESSIONALS IN THEIR ESCAPES. BLECH SAID GROUPS HAD BEEN ORGANIZED TO HELP ESCAPEES IN SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA AS WELL AS IN THE FRG NEAR THE GDR BORDER. IN COMMENTING ON RECENT SPECULATION THAT AN INORDINATELY HIGH NUMBER OF DOCTORS HAD BEEN EXFILTRATED RECENTLY, BLECH SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT EAST BERLIN'S CHARITY HOSPITAL HAD LOST 38 DOCTORS FROM A STAFF OF 200 DURING LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

4. BLECH SAID BERLIN'S SENATOR FOR JUSTICE HAD PROSECUTED 21 CASES ON EXFILTRATION-RELATED MATTERS IN THE PAST YEAR, OF WHICH AT LEAST 15 HAD BEEN DISMISSED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE REPORTED CONVICTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HEAD OF THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE INNER-GERMAN TRAFFIC COMMISSION HAD LEARNED THERE HAD BEEN 76 CONVICTIONS TO DATE IN THE GDR RESULTING FROM VARIOUS TRANSIT ROUTE VIOLATIONS. MOST OF THESE REPORTEDLY CONCERNED ASSISTING REFUGEES TO ESCAPE.

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5. COMMENT: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE CONTINUING MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES AND BY THE PROSPECT OF THE GDR TIGHTENING ITS CONTROLS ON THE ROADS AND CHECKPOINTS. IN FACT, JULY 2 EDITION OF DIE WELT CARRIED STORY CLAIMING BONN PLANS "DRASTIC MEASURES" AGAINST REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, BLECH COMMENTED THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT CAN DO APART FROM ISSUING GENERAL STATEMENTS TO THE WEST GERMAN PUBLIC URGING ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT. HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ANY REAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS OF THOSE WHO BREAK FRG LAW IN EXFILTRATING

GDR RESIDENTS. IN BRIEF, THE FRG'S PRESENT STANCE SEEMS TO BE ONE OF TRYING TO MAKE REASSURING NOISES FOR GDR CONSUMPTION BUT RECOGNIZING THAT NOTHING MUCH IN THE PRESENT UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION IS LIKELY TO CHANGE.

HILLENBRAND

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